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CANADA'S COMPACT GLOCK

Reviewing the Glock 48
BY NORMAN GRAY

I'm old enough to remember a gun world that was polymer-free – one consisting of blued steel and wood. The undisputed king of the handgun was John Moses Browning's 1911. Then the '80s happened. The Austrian military needed a replacement for their aging Second World War handguns, and pistol trials were conducted to find a modern replacement. Bids were being accepted by any manufacturer that wanted to throw their hat into the ring. Gaston Glock decided to do just that, even though he had never manufactured a firearm. Glock figured if it was a manufactured product, he could do it, as he already had successful military and civilian contracts. Well, wouldn't you know it, the Glock 17 won the trials, and handguns would never be the same.

A few years later, in 1988, Glock's introduction of the Model 19 gave customers the option of a shorter barrel with a 15-round capacity. However, countries with limits on magazine capacity and barrel length kept the G19 out of reach of their citizens. But all that changed in 2019 with the introduction of the Glock 48. Canadians could finally enjoy shooting a compact Glock handgun.

The G48 is essentially a G19 with a 4.17-inch (106-millimetre) barrel and a slimmer grip frame. Of course, that slimline profile meant changing the magazine from a traditional double stack to a less congested single stack. The combination makes for a Canadian-legal Glock that's reasonably compact.

The 1.1-inch (28-millimetre) wide slide sports forward cocking serrations for chamber checks and utilizes Glock's nDLC finish. The nDLC finish is an ion bonding process that is an exclusive part of the Glock manufacturing process. The finish increases protection against corrosion and scratches and improves the ability of the pistol to function in unlubricated or adverse conditions. It's a finish which will be standard on all Gen5 pistols. Sight options range from standard OEM plastic, to steel, night sights and the AmeriGlo bold sights currently used on FBI duty pistols. The barrel of the G48 is Glock's Marksman barrel, with their new rifling pattern and improved crown.

The frame is constructed of Glock's non-fiberglass, reinforced polymer, and is the same frame used on the G43X. It has a reversible magazine release for all you southpaws, and medium stippling composed of tiny squares for positive grip control. I have never had, nor heard of any issues from anyone in regards to controlling any of their Glocks; of course, you always have the option of aftermarket re-stippling. If that wasn't enough, they added a small beavertail, so slide bite is negligible, depending

on your grip and hand size.

Range time consisted of inspection, chronographing and accuracy testing. However, testing Glocks has always been somewhat blasé for me, as their initial design and function haven't changed much since 1982. What makes Glocks so desirable is their simplicity and die-hard reliability; that's why I own three. The chambering of the venerable 9x19mm Luger is a given in any newly manufactured handgun. It's the default cartridge of the world and its militaries. With practice, it's not

hard to control any model chambered in 9mm, and the performance of the round has increased exponentially since 1902 when it was introduced. I used a combination of standard full metal jacket, match-grade FMJ and Black Hills Honeybadger. I also added some frangible ammunition from Polyfrang and DoubleTap because shooting steel has grown steadily in popularity, and since ricochets are never fun or desired, the frangible ammunition makes a great addition to your range layout. Test results looked like this:

NOTES: Accuracy is derived from the average of five, five-shot groups fired from the bench at 15 yards. Velocity figures are the result of 10 rounds recorded on a Caldwell Ballistic Precision Chronograph G2 placed 15 feet from the muzzle. Abbreviations: (SD), standard deviation; (AG), average group; (FMJ), full metal jacketed; (TCMC), truncated cone metal case.

Chronograph & Accuracy Results - Glock 48 - 9x19mm			
AMMUNITION	Velocity (fps)	SD	AG
Black Hills Ammunition 100-grain HoneyBadger	1,219	10.4	2.2 inches
DoubleTap 9mm 124-grain FMJ-RN Match	1,088	6.4	2.2 inches
DoubleTap 9mm 90-grain Frangible	1,440	10.7	2.3 inches
Polyfrang 9mm 90-grain Frangible	1,278	27.7	1.7 inches
Winchester 9mm 147-grain TCMC	997	10.5	2.4 inches

Below and inset: The AmeriGlo sights are an asset for both day and low-light shooting.

I've been shooting Glocks for around 30 years, and I've witnessed them go from Generation nothing to Generation 5. We should expect technology, materials and aesthetics to change for the better and I feel Glocks have. The AmeriGlo sights were a positive addition to making sighting effortless. Combined with the 2.4-kilogram

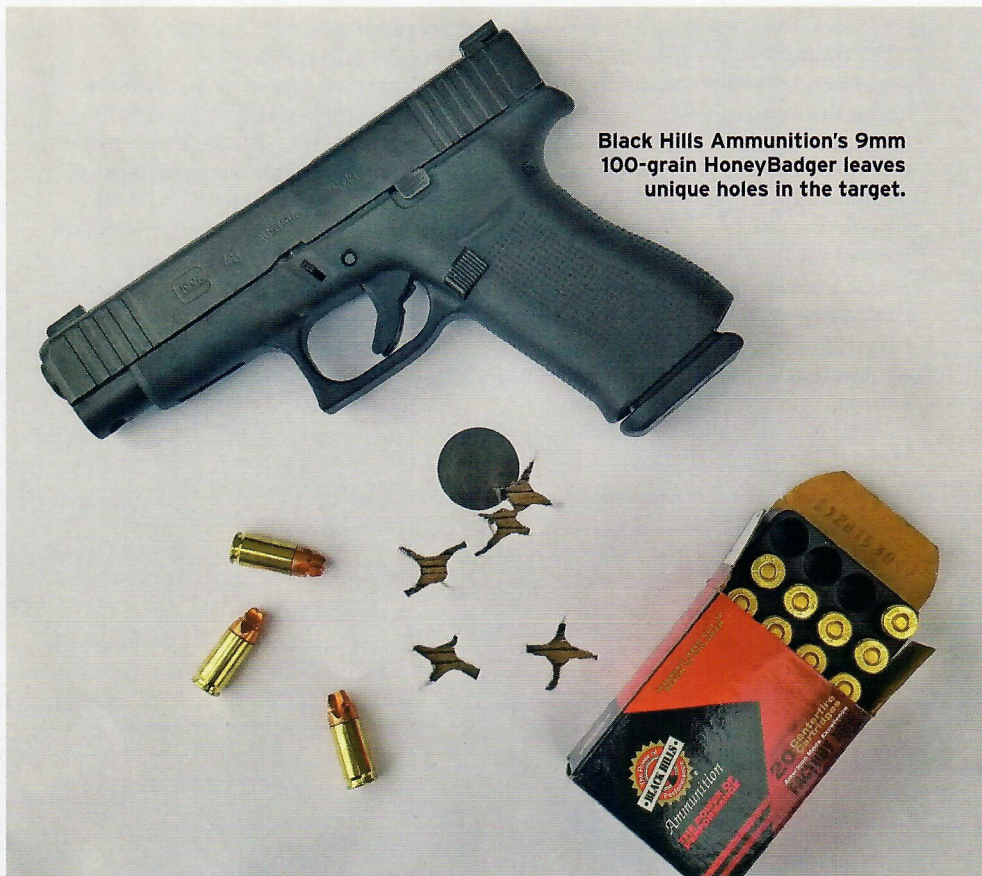
(5.4-pound) trigger, it was easy to acquire the target and place the round where intended. Even with my extra-large hands, I found the grip was large enough to control the pistol.

I've adopted the practice of asking others around me to shoot whatever I'm testing and asking their opinion. The men I offered the G48 to all liked it, even though it was compact, saying, "It's comfortable to hold and shoot despite the size." The women told me the single best >



thing was the grip size. Comments included, "It was comfortable and easy to control versus other manufacturers," and, "It's a contender for purchase."

Since the first Glock 17 reached the hands of Austrian soldiers, Glock has become a well-respected and iconic manufacturer of reliable handguns around the world. Glock coined the phrase, "Glock perfection," and you only have to watch TV and movies to see how heavy their influence is. When I acquired my first Glock in the early '90s, I felt drawn to its natural simplicity. Trust me when I say I've shot a lot of rounds through my Glocks, and in all these years I've only encountered one mechanical issue, and Glock fixed it at their expense. Based on many years behind their trigger, Glock will always be a part of my collection, and if you don't own one, the G48 would be a fine place to start. 🍀



Black Hills Ammunition's 9mm 100-grain HoneyBadger leaves unique holes in the target.



Left to right: Lead-free 90-grain PolyFrang, DoubleTap 90-grain Frangible, 124-grain FMJ-RN Match, Winchester 147-grain TCMC and Black Hills 90-grain HoneyBadger +P.

GLOCK 48 SPECIFICATIONS

MODEL: 48 - PA4850301AB

TYPE: Striker-fired semi-automatic

CALIBRE: 9x19mm (9mm Luger)

CAPACITY: 10-round magazine with an orange follower

BARREL: 106 millimetres (4.17 inches) with polygonal barrel rifling

WEIGHT: 588 grams (20.74 ounces) with an empty magazine

OVERALL LENGTH: 185 millimetres (7.28 inches)

HEIGHT: 128 millimetres (5.04 inches)

SLIDE WIDTH: 22 millimetres (0.87 inches)

Slide length: 174 millimetres (6.85 inches)

FRAME: Non-fiberglass reinforced polymer

SIGHTS: Standard Glock, OEM, Night or AmeriGlo

TRIGGER: Safe action trigger, 2.4 kilograms (5.4 pounds)

SAFETY(S): Safe Action system utilizing three automatic, independently operating mechanical safeties.

PRICE: \$656 CAD

SOURCES

GLOCK INC.: us.glock.com/en
Black Hills Ammunition: www.black-hills.com

DOUBLETAP: www.doubletapammo.net

POLYFRANG: www.polyfrang.com

WINCHESTER: www.winchester.com